



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Michael Stinziano, Director Matthew M. Damschroder, Deputy Director

**For Immediate Release
Sept. 25, 2008**

Board of Elections Clarifies Electioneering Questions

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections reminds voters that Ohio law prohibits electioneering within 100 feet of a polling location. This includes the wearing of clothing or accessories such as buttons that may be construed as campaigning or campaign related. Voters who arrive at a polling location with such electioneering clothing or accessories will be allowed to vote and will not be turned away.

The Board of Elections is aware that unsubstantiated Internet reports have suggested that voters will not be allowed to vote if they forget to remove a campaign button, hat or shirt before entering their polling place. We want to stress that such reports are not true. The over 5,000 Franklin County Board of Elections poll workers are trained to ask that a voter remove or cover a campaign item. Poll workers are not instructed to send voters home to change clothing. However, they will ask that the voter comply with Ohio law.

We encourage everyone eligible to register and vote in the general election and to support their candidates and issues enthusiastically. We ask that you demonstrate your outward support at least 100 feet from the polls as Ohio law requires.

If any questions arise during this election season, do not hesitate to contact your local board of elections for true and accurate statements regarding Ohio election law.

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